

REMARKS

Claims 12, 20, and 21 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-11 and 13-19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. This Response, submitted in reply to the Office Action dated September 22, 2008, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 12, 20, and 21 are allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10, 13, 14, and 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gennetten (U.S. 2004/0201774 A1) in view of Ohmura (U.S. 7,301,561 B2). Further, claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gennetten (U.S. 2004/0201774 A1) in view of Ohmura (U.S. 7,301,561 B2) in further view of Nagaoka (U.S. 6,734,915 B2).

Claims 1-11 and 13-19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering these rejections moot. Therefore, Applicant requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS payment screen. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 22, 2008

/Michael C. Jones/
Michael C. Jones
Registration No. 63,266